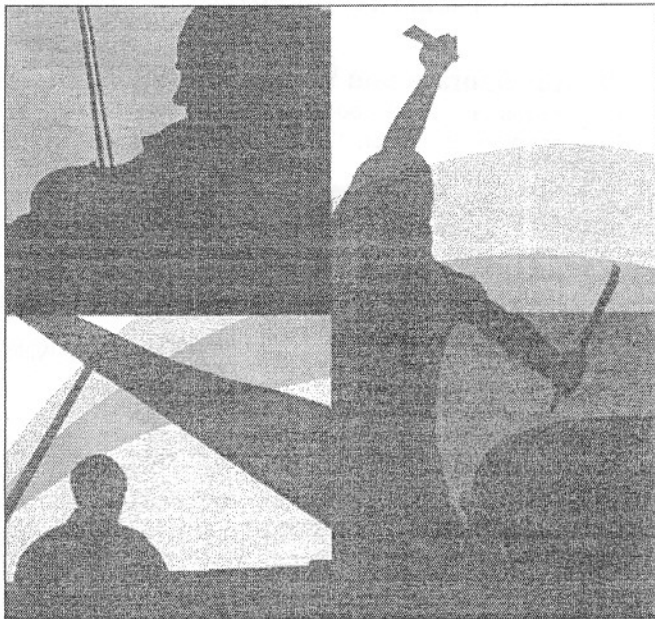


CD 2008--28

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY OF MUSIC



2007-2008 SEASON



WHERE GREAT MINDS MEET GREAT MUSIC

88-800205
Friday, February 29, 2008

7:30 pm. Walter Hall

University of Toronto Faculty of Music
presents

"TALLIS TO TAVENER"

Master Chorale and VIVA! Youth Singers

Brad Ratzlaff and Carol Woodward Ratzlaff, conductors

Greg Rainville, assistant conductor; Kristin Mueller-Heaslip, accompanist

PROGRAM

Master Chorale

Hark All Ye Lovely Saints

Thomas Weelkes

Sweet Day

R. Vaughan Williams

Greg Rainville, assistant conductor

Who is Sylvia?

Gerald Finzi

Caedmon Ricker-Wilson, baritone

Nobody Knows (from *A Child Of Our Time*)

Michael Tippett

The Hungry God

Sahlia Wong

Vival Youth Singers

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

The Silver Swan

Orlando Gibbins

Music For Awhile

Henry Purcell

Catherine Menard, soprano

Hymn to St. Cecilia (Mvt. 2)

Benjamin Britten

The Lamb

John Tavener

Combined Choirs

Jerusalem

Hubert Parry

Beati Quorum Via

C.V. Stanford

Song for Athene

John Tavener

Dona Nobis Pacem (Mvt. 6)

R. Vaughan Williams

Catherine Menard, soprano; Greg Rainville, baritone

The Faculty of Music gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our season sponsors



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Program Notes

The combined choir selections this evening represent four composers who significantly affected the growth and development of English choral music.

Both **Hubert Parry** and **Charles Stanford** were primarily responsible for the renaissance of English choral music in the late nineteenth century.

In 1916, at the request of the English Fight For The Right Movement, Parry set music to William Blake's famous text, *Jerusalem*. Morale was at a low point in the war, and Parry's music was meant to rekindle nationalistic pride in the war effort. *Jerusalem* was a great success. The utopian nature of Blake's poetry inspired Parry to compose music which became so popular that many began to refer to *Jerusalem* as England's second national anthem.

Charles Stanford composed *Beati Quorum Via* in 1892 as part of a set of three motets. He was retiring as organist from Trinity College, and he dedicated all three motets to his successor, Alan Gray. The piece opens antiphonally with the three upper female voices acting as one choir, and the three lower male voices responding as the second choir. *Beati*

Quorum Via is probably the most well known of the three motets.

R. Vaughan Williams composed *Dona Nobis Pacem* in the mid 1930's as a protest against the increasing industrial build-up of war machinery in England and the rest of Europe. The cantata uses biblical texts and the poetry of the American pacifist Walt Whitman, one of Vaughan Williams favourite authors. *Dona Nobis Pacem* has become recognized as one of the great choral works of the 20th century.

In the late 20th century, composer **John Tavener** helped steer the development of English choral music in a new direction. Tavener took musical elements of the English cathedral anthem, and combined it with the monadic chant of the Greek Orthodox Church. The result is music which resonates with deep spirituality and mysticism. *Song for Athene* was written in 1993, and was dedicated to the memory of Athene Hariades, a close friend of Tavener's who died tragically in an accident. The piece gained worldwide recognition when it was sung at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1997.

Biographies

BRAD RATZLAFF is currently the Music Director and Organist at Trinity-St. Paul's, and on the teaching faculty of the University of Toronto. He is the Artistic Director of the Hart House Chorus, and Co-Director and accompanist of the Youth Choir of VIVA! Youth Singers of Toronto. Brad has twice been the recipient of the Elmer Iseler Fellowship in choral conducting, and holds a M.Mus in Performance (Conducting) at the University of Toronto. He holds Associate degrees from the Royal Conservatory of Music and the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Brad is a former member of the bass section of several professional choirs, including the Concertgebouw Choir of Amsterdam, the Elora Festival Singers, and the Elmer Iseler Singers. Brad has studied voice with Gary Relyea, piano with Ruth Watson Henderson, and choral conducting with Jon Washburn, Leonard Ratzlaff, the late Elmer Iseler, Doreen Rao and Helmuth Rilling.

CAROL WOODWARD RATZLAFF holds a Master of Music in vocal performance from the University of British Columbia, an Honours Bachelor of Music from the University of Western Ontario, and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto.

As a singer, Carol performed with the renowned Elmer Iseler Singers for several seasons. She has been an ensemble member of the Elora Festival Singers, and has appeared as a guest soloist with the Toronto Consort, the Toronto Chamber Choir, the Pax Christi Chorale, and the Jubilate Singers.

Carol has worked extensively with children and youth in addition to her work as a singer. She has taught in

both public and private schools at the elementary and secondary levels. Presently, she is the Vocal Music teacher at North Toronto Collegiate Institute.

Carol has led her choirs in such professional engagements as the National Ballet of Canada's annual production of the *Nutcracker*, Jubilate Singer's *Missa Gala*, the Scarborough Philharmonic's Ancestral Voices, and in a joint concert with the Elmer Iseler Singers. Carol has acted as vocal coach for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus.

A passionate promoter of the arts, Carol founded VIVA! Youth Singers of Toronto in the year 2000, in response to declining arts opportunities for children and youth. Now a fully incorporated, charitable organization governed by a vibrant Board of Directors, VIVA! has evolved into a series of four graded choirs providing excellent singing opportunities and professional contact for children and youth, conveniently located in the heart of downtown Toronto.

The S.A.T.B. Youth Choir (high school/university age) of VIVA! Youth Singers has grown to become one of the city's finest youth choirs, placing as a semi-finalist in the CBC Competition for Amateur Choirs in 2006 (Chamber Choir category). Together with several other choirs, the Youth Choir has appeared annually in the International Bach Festival's annual cantata service under Maestro Helmuth Rilling. The unique VIVA! mentoring program offers Youth Choir members opportunities to work with younger children as vocal coaches, voice teachers, theory teachers and teaching assistants.

www.vivayouthsingers.com

Master Chorale

SOPRANO

Sabina Arulampalam
Sarah Rose Black
Viola Chehlarova
Polina Dessiatnitchenko
Lisa (Joeun) Lim
Shih Ren Lu
Elina Merebashvili
Mary Ying Xue Wei
Sahlia Wong
Nastasija Zibrat
Maria Ludmilla Zupan

ALTO

Andrea Chan
Michelle Dussard
Tiana Feng
Kathy (Jia-Xin) Feng
Suvín Her
Esther Jeon
Kathleen Johnston
Jaeyon Kang
Jeehyun Kim
Lan-chee Lam
UnJee Lee
Takyi Tammy Leung
Tamar Rubin
Justine Wong
Xi Yang

TENOR

Casey Goranson
Dong Hoon Lee
Emil Azuma Prikryl
Simon Prosser
Eran Rozenszajn
Greg Rainville

BASS

Chairat Chongvattanakij
Rosano Noel Coutinho
Scott Crocker
Nicholas Duranleau
Trevor Hewer
Michael Klose
Winston (Kun-Won) Park
Caedmon Ricker-Wilson
Saman Shahi
Joseph Simone
Benjamin Whittle
Sean Seo

VIVA! Youth Singers of Toronto

SOPRANO

Emily Clark
Kate Fowley
Catherine Menard
Laura Menard
Sara Peters
Alexandra Rasiuk
Vanessa Timmins
Ruthie Wellen

ALTO

Kerry Chan
Shifra Cooper
Maida Gragasín
Jennifer Lee
Gita Madan
Louise Simone

TENOR

James Boccia
Adam Mason
Felix Wieler

BASS

Chris Blachford
Timothy Dontosos
Jamie Hofman
Sam Johansen
Stephen Robins

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